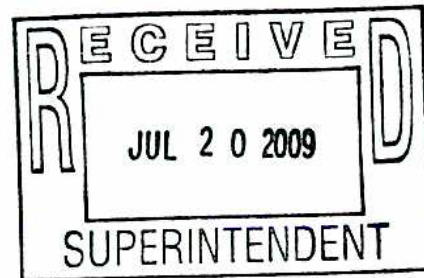


DARDEN

Kevin L. Hill, Chair
Wake County Board of Education
Wake County Public School System
3600 Wake Forest Road
Raleigh, NC 27609



Dear Mr. Hill,

Educational decision making that impact the future of all students is an admirable as well as daunting responsibility: yet, it is an admirable goal. The Wake County Public School System's Mission "... to educate each student to be a responsible and productive citizen who can effectively manage future challenges" meets this criteria. In order to accomplish this mission, Wake County School System needs qualified, committed people to make it happen.

My name is Johnnie M. Darden, Sr., and I am interest in fulfilling District Seat four previously held by Representative Rosa Gill. I am glad that Representative Gill, who is from our district, has been selected to serve in the North Carolina House of Representatives as the District 33 representative. I believe I am the person to fill the seat left vacant by Representative Gill. I am a resident of district Four, a husband and father of two beautiful children who have attended the Wake County Public School System for the past five years. My son will be in middle school this year (2009-2010) and my daughter will be in elementary school. My wife and I have been very satisfied with the level of education provided to our children by the Wake County School System. It is for this reason that I would like to work with the current board member to continue the level of satisfaction we have experienced for other parents and increase parental and community satisfaction and awareness of the many opportunities available in the Wake County School System.

I am a community oriented person and I feel that the many varied experience I have acquired over the years will serve me well as a member of the Wake County Board of Education. I was a member of the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne Division, 782nd Maintenance Battalion in Dessert Shield, Dessert Storm and

serving with the U.S. Army Reserve 535 Military Police Company has given me the unique perspective on how authority and decision-making works. My experience serving the Citizens of Wake County, as a Deputy Sheriff, and the Citizens of Raleigh, as a Police Officer are also a benefit. These positions have given me the opportunity to get to know the citizens of Wake County and Raleigh, which are the people I hope to serve as a school board member.

I am currently a Minister and business owner in the Wake County Community. My experiences as a Minister working in outreach in the community has shown me the disparities that exist, therefore, I work diligently to link people to the services needed. My experience as a Pastor of Community and Kingdom Building Ministries, Inc., as well as a business owner in the non-profit sector, Standing Inside The Gap, Inc., has given me a unique perspective as I mentor our young boys and young girls to become men and women and productive citizens. I have also worked and served as a PTA member in our school system working along side principals, teachers, parents, and students.

The three strategies I will focus on to advance the school board's goals are in the area of Quality Teachers, Safe Learning Environment, and Fiscal and Responsible School System. In order to recruit and retain **Quality Teachers**, I will help create and pass policies that support fair recruitment, retention, and train high quality employees. I will help develop and implement a comprehensive and realistic recruiting and retention plan. Design and align professional development with the curriculum, student learning, and teacher performance and appraisal. In the area of **Safe Learning Environments**, I will assist the board's goal to continue a safe learning environment by maintaining a healthy and social diverse school system where student will have equal access to books, supplies, equal opportunities. We will take steps to eliminate the achievement gap between ethnic and socioeconomic student groups and to allocate resources on the basis of needs. Commit to reduce the high school failure and drop out rate. Revise guidelines for the student assignment process. Develop a curriculum to achieve school system goals, and design and implement a process for continuous improvement. Ensure that levels of investment in programs and facilities are appropriate and adequate to support learning and success for all students. Finally, in order to promote a **Fiscal and Responsible School System**, I will assist the board's goals to expand fiscal accountability by develop and implement a multi-year plan that fully aligns district and building level resources with curricular goals and strategic priorities. I will assist the board's work with State and local

governments to establish a stable and long term school funding and capital financing plan. I will assist by helping the board develop and implement systems, structure and process to support schools, ensure accountability and engage the community developing a clear, concise, comprehensive policy framework that supports and achieves the strategic direction of the school system. I will assist to engage and educate elected officials and the public about the school system progress, issues, and concerns. Identify and adopt best practices to achieve optimal efficiencies and economies of scale in the planning, design, and construction of school building and facilities.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter of interest to become the next school board member of District Four in the Wake County Public School System and I look forward to hearing from you soon. My personal information is as follows:

Johnnie M. Darden, Sr.
6000 River Lake Circle
Raleigh, NC 27604
E-mail Address: johnniedarden@yahoo.com
Telephone numbers: (919) 255-3021 and (919) 815-1665

Thank you again, and I look forward to hearing from you soon and also I look forward to the opportunity to serve the students, and citizens of Wake County.

Sincerely,

Johnnie M. Darden, Sr.

Johnnie M. Darden, Sr.
6000 River Lake Circle
Raleigh, NC 27604
Home#: (919) 255-3021
Cell#: (919) 815-1665

Objective

To obtain District 4 Seat to better serve the students and parents in District 4 and help the board to reach there goals.

Qualifications

- 7 years experience serving in the U.S. Army/Army Reserve Units
- 5 years experience working in Corporate America
- 10 years experience serving in law enforcement and the public
- 4 years experience working with an At-Risk Youth in the community
- 2 years president and 11 years member of The River Bend Home Owner Association
- 12 years as a member/10 yrs as an Elder in The Church of God In Christ Organization working with children/adults
- President of Dove Supportive Services Marketing/Community Involvement Committees

Work History

2007 Present: **Dove Supportive Services, LLC, Raleigh, NC**

Manager of Community Development

- Over saw marketing efforts for organization
- Recruited coaching staff
- Planned and conducted various workshop/seminars in the communities
- Worked and communicated with other grass root organizations
- Coordinated and communicated with non-profit organizations
- Created and maintained a Stakeholder Provider's Directory
- Created and maintained a Community Involvement Newsletter for our consumers
- Coordinated information for presentations to stakeholders
- Worked closely with staff to ensure day-to-day operations are completed in a timely manner
- Attended meetings and trainings as required
- Ensured consumers and organization business are kept confidential at all times

2000 to 2007: **Raleigh Police Department, Raleigh, NC**

Master Officer

- Served and protected the citizens of Raleigh
- Enforced the laws of the State of NC and the ordinance of the City of Raleigh
- Responded to emergency calls and handled them appropriately
- Made necessary arrest and appropriate charges of law breakers
- Diverted Crisis Individuals to the appropriate agencies
- Handled Domestic Violence Cases according to Domestic Violence Laws
- Attended required training by the State of NC and The Raleigh Police Department

1997 to 2000: **Wake County Sheriff's Office Raleigh, NC**

Deputy Sheriff

- Served and protected the citizens of Wake County
- Enforced the laws of the State of NC and the ordinance of the City of Raleigh
- Responded to emergency calls and handled them appropriately
- Made necessary arrest and appropriate charges of law breakers

- Attended required training by the State of NC and The Raleigh Police Department

**1996 to 1997: NC Department of Correction: Central Prison, Raleigh, NC
Correctional Officer**

- Maintained control and order of inmates in a confined institutions
- Monitored and controlled access and egress control of inmates as they moved in side a control facility
- Counseled inmate on their on their behavior and gave them corrective and positive feed back

**1996 to 1992: Guardsmark, Inc.
Security Officer**

- Protected the welfare and safety of our clients
- Protected the physical property and business interests of our clients

**1988 to 1992: U. S. Army: 82nd Airborne Division HLM 782nd MT BN Fort Bragg, NC
Supply Specialist**

- Protected the national security of our country
- Class Nine Warehouse Specialist
- Missile Stock Control Clerk
- Shipping and Receiving Clerk
- 10,000 lbs Forklift Operator
- 2 ½ ton Truck Operator

Education:

1984 to 1988: Greene County Central High School, Snow Hill, NC 28580, Graduated: High School Diploma

1992 to 1995: Wake Tech Community College, Raleigh, NC, Degree: Associate Degree: Criminal Justice

1995 to Present: NC Wesleyan College, RTP, NC, Degree: Justice Studies, Completed: Hours Earned: 89 Semester Hours

Training:

1997 Basic Law Enforcement Training: Wake County Sheriff's Department

2000 Basic Law Enforcement Training: Raleigh Police Department

2007 Conflict Resolution Certificate/ HIPP Training

Non-Profit Organization:

Community & Kingdom Building Ministries, Inc.

Standing Inside The Gap, Inc.

References: Upon request

520 Mountain Lake Drive
Raleigh, NC 27610
July 17, 2009

District 4 Board of Education Vacancy
Wake County Board of Education
3600 Wake Forest Road
Raleigh, NC 27609

Dear Members of the Board:

I am writing to recommend Johnnie Darden for the District 4 Board of Education vacancy. Having known him for several years, I strongly believe his experiences, education, and passion for at-risk youth make him a great candidate.

As you'll see from his resume, he helped protect this country and proudly served with the US Army 82nd Airborne Division. After serving, he obtained his degree in Criminal Justice and continued his education receiving credits in Justice Studies, Law Enforcement, and Conflict Resolution. This education gave him foundation upon which to further his career in serving and protecting citizens. He has worked as a Security Officer, Central Prison Correctional Officer, Wake County Deputy Sheriff, and Master Officer with the Raleigh Police Department.

Having seen the corrections and law enforcement side, Johnnie has transitioned to a prevention focus. He currently works with at-risk youth in the District providing activities and workshops that are geared to educate and keep children on a positive track to becoming productive citizens. In addition, he ministers, coordinates programs with non-profit entities, and promotes community involvement. Johnnie has grasped the old adage -- it takes a village to effectively raise and educate children.

In summary, Johnnie Darden's background and experiences are evidence of his dedication to the community in which we live. I am certain he will be an earnest member of the Board of Education working in harmony with you, continuing the educational objectives of the system, voting for the good of the District, and pushing for financial resources that are critical for maintaining academic excellence in our schools.

Sincerely,



Kevin D. Brodie, CTP

Rosary W. Gross
5209 Marthonna Way
Raleigh, NC 27616
7/14/09

District 4 Board of Education of Vacancy
Wake County Board of Education
3600 Wake Forest Rd
Raleigh, NC 27609

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this recommendation on behalf of Mr. Johnnie Darden regarding the position for District 4 Board of Education. Johnnie Darden and I have worked together with Dove Supportive Services in Community Support. Johnnie Darden was the recruiter for the agency which allowed him to communicate with the public and educate them on various services the agency offered. He was an access to the agency due to his knowledge, compassion and ability to match the proper clients with the necessary services. Johnnie Darden is an outstanding individual that always focus on serving his community and helping others.

Johnnie Darden is a devoted husband and takes great interest in both his children's education. His son attends middle school and his daughter is in elementary school. He participates with the PTA to keep him aware of resources offered that would benefit his children as well as others. He is very much concern for the youth and his compassion with children shows his dedication of positive changes.

I believe Johnnie Darden would be a great access to the Board of Education with his knowledge and experience that he will bring. He has served four years in the military 82nd airborne division, three years in the reserve, ten years in law enforcement, three years sheriff department, seven years with the Raleigh police department, mentoring program for young men and does ministry work in the community. I strongly recommend Johnnie Darden for the position as he would be a great addition to your board.

Sincerely,

Rosary W. Gross

Rosary W. Gross



July 16, 2009

District 4 Board of Education Vacancy
Wake County Board of Education
3600 Wake Forest Rd.
Raleigh, NC 27609

Re: Board of Education District 4 Recommendation

The purpose of this letter is to submit a recommendation of Mr. Johnnie Darden to the District 4 Board of Education.

As an entrepreneur and a mother of two young boys, recommending someone to the Board is a serious matter. I have known Mr. Darden for over 16 years in different capacities. It is in these capacities I have seen Mr. Darden exhibit compassion and safety for people. He has always wanted the very best for individuals. He is a man of integrity and will do whatever he can to help a team get the results needed for an organization. He is approachable which causes people to gravitate to him with their concerns and issues. I have seen him in a role as Community Involvement which entailed him going into the various communities to find out the needs of individuals in that area. Mr. Darden is definitely a go-getter.

It is with pleasure and honor to recommend Mr. Darden to this Board. I am confident that he will serve the Board and the citizens of his district well.

If more information is needed, I can be reached at 919-995-8452.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nanette Patterson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nanette Floyd Patterson, MA, LPC
Chief Executive Officer

Nicholle Allen-Steele, Esq.
5001 Amberfield Way
Raleigh, North Carolina 27604
(919) 835-4491 (W)

July 20, 2009

VIA HAND DELIVERY

District 4 Board of Education Vacancy
Wake County Board of Education
3600 Wake Forest Road
Raleigh, NC 27609

RE: Johnnie Darden

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please consider my recommendation that Johnnie Darden be selected to fill the Wake County District 4 Board of Education vacancy. I have known Mr. Darden for over six (6) years.

Mr. Darden is an active member of our community and very motivated about becoming a board member of the Wake County School Board (the "Board"). I sincerely believe that the Board and our children's future education could be advantaged by his participation on the Board.

I have seen firsthand how Mr. Darden has been actively involved with his children's educational needs. He and his wife own and operate a daycare center in their home. Additionally, during his time as a Raleigh Police Officer, Mr. Darden served our community faithfully. Through the years, he has always demonstrated strong leadership and moral values. He has the courage and dedication to vigorously promote the Board's agenda, even in the face of opposition.

Mr. Darden has a common sense approach to procedures that favorably help to bring people to work together. He is honest, forthright and motivated by a strong desire to do what is right, rather than what is personally advantageous or expeditious.

Thank you for your consideration and if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

Nicholle Allen-Steele

Nicholle Allen-Steele